



## **Rural Development Utilities Programs**

*Committed to the future of rural communities*

### **Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program**

The Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program is designed to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide currently unserved areas, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, with broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services.

#### **Fiscal Year 2006 Funding \$8.9 Million in Grants**

##### **Grant Program Features**

- Annual Application Period
- Competitive Application Process
- 15% Required Matching Contribution
- \$50,000 Minimum
- **NO** Maximum grant amount

##### **Eligibility Information**

###### ***Who is eligible?***

- Entities that are legally organized as one of the following are eligible for Community Connect Grant Program financial assistance:
  1. An incorporated organization
  2. An Indian Tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b(b) and (c)
  3. A state or local unit of government
  4. A cooperative, private corporation, or limited liability company organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis

###### ***Who is Ineligible?***

- Individuals and partnerships are **not** eligible

###### ***What are the basic eligibility requirements?***

- Required matching funds of 15% of requested grant amount
- Serve a rural area where Broadband transmission service does **not** exist
- Serve **one and only one** community
- Deploy basic broadband transmission service, free of charges for 2 years, to all critical community facilities
- Offer basic broadband transmission service to residential and business customers within the proposed Service Area
- Provide a community center with at least ten (10) computer access points, free from charges for two years

###### ***What are the eligible purposes of grant funds?***

- Constructions, acquisition, or lease of facilities to deploy broadband transmission services to all critical community facilities, and to offer such services to all communities and businesses in proposed service area
- Improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center (funding has restrictions)
- End-user equipment to carry out project
- Operating expenses for critical community facility for the first two years not to exceed \$200,000
- Purchase of land, buildings, or building construction

**The Community Connect Program has provided 109 grants and invested \$39 million to provide service to local communities.**

**For more information or an application package, please visit our website at:  
[www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm)**

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